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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9927
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 1311
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0065
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0260
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0695
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0615
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0051
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 5464

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 000054

SIPDIS

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DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/PI SENIOR ADVISOR OWEN KIRBY AND NEA/ELA
SYRIA DESK OFFICER ALLISON MONZ

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/07/2018

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CI, AR

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON SUPPORTING ASPIRATIONS OF THE SYRIAN
NATIONAL COUNCIL DELIVERED TO THE GOI

REF: SECSTATE 171106

Classified By: A/DCM Ted Osius for reasons 1.4 (b,d)

11. (C) A/DCM delivered reftel demarche to MEA Joint
Secretary (West Asia and North Africa) M. Manimekalai and

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Director (WANA) N.J. Gangte on January 7, and expressed USG
desire that the GOI make public statements in support of
the Syrian democracy and human rights activists who formed
the Damascus Declaration National Council and to urge the
Syrian Government to release prisoners of conscience,
including members of the National Council.

12. (C) Gangte acknowledged that his sources inside Syria
kept him apprised of the activities of the pro-democracy
movement and its challenge to push Syria towards democratic
governance and "away from the hereditary, autocratic rule
of one family." He said the GOI strove to "keep all lines
of communication open," alluding to its policy of avoiding
public criticism of any country. Gangte noted that the GOI
maintains open channels of communication with the Israelis,
the Palestinians and the Syrians. He noted that the Syrian
Foreign Minister visited India in 2007, and that in
mid-January the Syrian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic
Affairs and Indian Minister of Commerce Kamal Nath would be
meeting for a regularly schedule bilateral Joint Commission
on Trade. A/DCM stated the USG wish that the GOI would
capitalize on its communications with the Government of
Syria to nudge it towards a more productive direction.

-- GOI PRAISE FOR ANNAPOLIS CONFERENCE --

13. (C) Separately, Manimekalai praised the Bush
administration for instigating and organizing the Annapolis
conference, calling it "an important development," and
cited as a positive sign that the USG was successful in
getting so many of the key players to sit down and talk to
one another, adding that the international community must
keep the momentum going on Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and
reconciliation.

WHITE